

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 244835

13
ORIGIN EA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COGARD POLAD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 14 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. MOSTPAPERS PROMINENTLY

CARRY WH ANNOUNCEMENT

THAT HAK AND THO WILL MEET IN PARIS NEXT THURSDAY

TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. WH SAYS

MEETING UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SEVERAL WEEKS,

BUT GIVES NO DETAILS. PAPERS ALSO QUOTE PENTAGON

SPOKESMAN THAT NVA STRENGTH IN SVN PERHAPS HIGHEST

LEVEL EVER, BUT DOD DOES NOT BELIEVE HEAVY OFFENSIVE

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PAGE 02 STATE 244835

WILL OCCUR IN NEXT SIX MONTHS. APPLE (NYT) BELIEVES
HAK AND THO WILL DISCUSS DETERIORATING STATE OF
SVN C-F BUT SAYS HAK'S BARGAINING POSITION APPARENTLY
WEAKENED BY CONGRESSIONAL BAN ON US MILITARY ACTION

IN SEA, AND SEES MEETING AS SOMETHING OF A MYSTERY.
QUOTES ONE ANALYST THAT MEETING NOW DOES NOT SEEM
URGENT IF US HAS NOTHING TO THREATEN HANOI WITH
AND DOES NOT EXPECT NVA ASSAULT. CARTER (NYDN)
REPORTS OFFICIALS WOULD NOT SAY WHO PROPOSED MEETING
BUT ONE SAID FACT THAT THO AGREED TO COME SO FAR

TO TALK GIVES GROUNDS FOR HOPE "THAT WE CAN REACH
SOME KIND OF UNDERSTANDING TO PULL US AWAY FROM
THE ABYSS OF A NEW COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE". MARDER
(WP) SAYS US OFFICIALS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH

INTO COUNTRY-WIDE WARFARE; QUOTES OFFICIALS THAT
SECRETARY ALSO HOPES TO EXPLORE CAMBODIAN SOLUTION
WITH THO. MARDER CHARACTERIZES PATTERN IN SVN
SINCE C-F AS ONE OF CROSS-VIOLATIONS, ENFORCEMENT
PARALYSIS AND STALEMATED POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS.
KEAT (SUN) REPORTS AP QUOTE OF SENIOR US OFFICIAL
TRAVELING WITH HAK PARTY, "-- OBVIOUSLY DR. KISSINGER
HIMSELF --", THAT NEGOTIATORS WOULD TRY TO "AMELIORATE"
RECENT UPSURGE IN FIGHTING IN SVN. KEAT ASCRIBES
TO PENTAGON SPOKESMAN REPORT THAT DOD CONSENSUS
IS THAT SVN "PROBABLY CAN HANDLE ANYTHING THAT
COMES UP", QUOTES AN OFFICIAL THAT THIS MAY BE
A WEIGHTY FACTOR IN HANOI'S CALCULATIONS AND MAY
LEAD TO A CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT POL-MIL STRUGGLE.
KEAT ALSO BELIEVES CAMBODIAN QUESTION MAY BE A
TOPIC IN THE HAK-THO TALKS. SHARROCK (UPI SAIGON)
QUOTES GVN SOURCES THAT FM BAC IS EXPECTED TO BE
IN PARIS WHEN HAK MEETS THO, AND MEETING EXPECTED
TO LEAD TO JOINT-COMMUNIQUE ON POLITICAL PARTS
OF PARIS AGREEMENT. SHARROCK ADDS THAT SVN POLITICIANS
AND MILITARY HOPE THAT HAK-THO MEETING MIGHT HELP
WITH SOME OF LESSER C-F PROBLEMS, BUT HOLD LITTLE
HOPE OF PROGRESS IN POLITICAL FIELD. UPI WASHINGTON
(PHINQ) NOTES THAT LAST HAK-THO MEETING WAS IN
JUNE WHEN C-F VIOLATIONS WERE INCREASING, AND THAT
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 244835

REPORTS FROM SAIGON AND PP NOW TELL OF RENEWED
FIGHTING. WIRE SERVICES CARRY NV NEWS AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THO'S DEPARTURE FOR PARIS.

2. SENATE ADOPTS AMENDMENT TO DEFENSE APPROPRIATION
BILL TO CUT OFF MILITARY POL SHIPMENTS TO SVN AND
CAMBODIA. SPONSOR SEN. COTTON SAYS HE DOESN'T
"PROPOSE TO SEE MY PEOPLE IN NEW ENGLAND SUFFER
FROM THE COLD WHILE SEEING THIS OIL GO OUT OF THE
COUNTRY" (AP, SUN). UPI (WP) SEES VOTE AS SYMBOLIC
PROTEST SINCE COTTON EXPLAINED THAT AMENDMENT APPLIED
ONLY TO FUNDS IN APPROPRIATION BILL AND NOT TO
MONEY GIVEN UNDER OTHER LEGISLATION. COTTON NOTED

THAT DOD CURRENTLY HOLDS ABOUT 40 BILLION DOLLARS APPROPRIATED IN PREVIOUS YEARS, SOME OF WHICH COULD BE DIVERTED TO FUEL DELIVERIES, AND THAT US ECON AID FUNDS CAN BE USED FOR SVN AND CAMBODIAN FUEL IMPORTS.

3. SHARROCK (UPI SAIGON) REPORTS THAT GVN PILOTS CLAIM TO HAVE HIT 58 RUSSIAN-BUILT TRUCKS OUT OF A 200-VEHICLE CONVOY ON A VC-BUILT ROAD 25 MILES WEST OF KONTUM NEAR LAOS BORDER.

4. LON NOL ANNOUNCES IN TAM RESIGNATION AND SAYS NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORMED SHORTLY WITH EMPHASIS ON FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNAL SECURITY. MAKES NO MENTION OF NEW PM (WHO INFORMED SOURCES SAY WILL BE LONG BORET), BUT SAYS NEW GOVERNMENT MUST DISCUSS EXPORTS WITH OTHER STATES TO INCREASE FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES, INCREASE CIVIL-SERVICE SALARIES, RAISE FOOD PRODUCTION AND PROVIDE MORE HOUSING (REUTER, NYT).

5. FIELD REPORTS SAY REBELS SURROUND FANK TROOPS ALONG MAJOR HIGHWAY, POSSIBLY AS PRELUDE TO ATTACK ON GKR'S MAIN MILITARY FUEL STORAGE YARD SIX MILES NW OF PP (UPI, NYDN; WP).

6. NYT'S CLARITY REPORTS RLG'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT WOULD END STATE OF EMERGENCY AND CURFEW JAN.
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PAGE 04 STATE 244835

1. CITES OFFICIALS AS SAYING THAT DECISION WAS NOT INDICATION THAT ANY DRAMATIC STEPS WERE IMMINENT IN MOVE TO FORM COALITION GOVT. SOURCES RELATE RELAXATION TO FACT THAT RLG-PL NEGOTS MOVING AT PACE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH FACTIONS. ACCORDING DIPLOMATS, SOUVANNA PHOUMA IS CONFIDENT THAT NEGOTS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL AND LEAD TO MILITARY NEUTRALIZATION OF MAJOR LAO CITIES. HE IS ALSO BELIEVED TO FEEL THAT NEGOTS SHOULD BE SPEEDED SO COALITION GOVT. CAN BEGIN OPERATION WITHOUT SUFFERING COMPLICATIONS THAT MIGHT ARISE FROM INCREASED COMMUNIST AND GVN FORCES IN SVN.

JAPAN

7. WP'S OBERDORFER, IN TOKYO, REPORTS GAIMUSHO TAKING "CAUTIOUS AND SOMEWHAT COOL VIEW" OF KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL THAT JAPAN, EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA FORM "ENERGY ACTION GROUP". WHILE CONCEDING THAT CRISIS POSES "VERY SERIOUS PROBLEMS," MINISTRY SAYS HAK PLAN RAISES "NUMBER OF POINTS REQUIRING CLARIFICATION" AND GOJ WISHES TO STUDY IDEA "FROM ALL ANGLES."

JOC'S CULLISON FINDS JAPANESE OFFICIALS "HIGHLY SKEPTICAL" OF PROPOSAL, SOME SUGGESTING IT COULD BE CONSIDERED WORTHWHILE FROM VIEWPOINT OF US' OWN ENERGY STRATEGY, BUT COULD PROVE LESS THAN ADVANTAGEOUS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES. SAYS SOME MITI OFFICIALS WENT SO FAR AS TO CLAIM THEY "CAN'T GRASP" CONCEPT AS PROPOSED BY KISSINGER.

8. MIKI DELEGATION ARRIVES IN CAIRO. OBSERVERS THERE BELIEVE GAIMUSHO'S THURSDAY CALL ON ISRAEL FOR PULLBACK TO OCT. 22 C-F LINES IS LIKELY TO HELP MIKI MISSION (REUTER).

9. NINE-MEMBER JAPANESE MISSION ARRIVES IN SIBERIA TO INVESTIGATE SIZE OF NATURAL GAS DEPOSITS THERE. KYODO REPORTS GOJ HAS DECIDED TO DECREASE ENERGY PRODUCTION BY 20-25 PERCENT NEXT MONTH (WP). FORMER MITI VICE-MINISTER YAMASHITA WARNS JAPANESE ECONOMY MAY FACE TOTAL COLLAPSE IF INFLATION, COUPLED WITH UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 244835

OIL CUTS, GOES UNCHECKED. SAYS OIL CRISIS AFFECTING US LEAST OF ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL NATIONS, SO THAT VALUE OF DOLLAR HAS BEEN INCREASING (REUTER). FINANCE REPORTS RECORD DEFICIT OF 1.71 BILLION DOLLARS FOR JAPAN'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IN NOV. (REUTER).

10. USDA REPORTS JAPAN, BIGGEST SINGLE BUYER OF US FARM PRODUCTS GE

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